

The Baptist Record

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Population problem skirted at Earth Summit

By Kathy Palen

NASHVILLE (ABP) — Experts agree: humankind is using resources and dumping waste at rates the earth cannot sustain.

During the recent Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, representatives from around the globe attempted to find ways their nations can work together to halt the growing assault on the environment.

But absent from the summit's myriad discussions and debates was the topic of population control. That absence came despite new forecasts of dramatic increases in the world's population.

Recently released figures from the United Nations Population Fund predict that the world's population, now at 5.4 billion, will surpass 11.6 billion by the year 2150. That figure reflects a significant increase from predictions made in 1980, when the agency projected population levels would stabilize at 10 billion people during the next century.

In light of such projections about population growth and the effects such growth will have on the earth, the topic is too controversial to be discussed at gatherings such as the

Earth Summit. Why?

"The controversy comes first of all from those religions that believe we should simply allow nature to do what it will do," said Glen Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary, "that we should get our ethics from nature rather than from a sense of responsibility for our role in the creation."

A second factor in the controversy, Stassen said, is the "polarized debate" over abortion. A "tragic spin-off" of that debate is fear that population control will lead to more abortions, he said.

"The U.S. government cut off its funding for population planning in other countries as part of its political response to a pretty extreme ideology," Stassen said.

While the abortion debate has overshadowed population concerns on a policy level, Stassen said the issue of population control is less controversial at the people level.

"The research is really clear that when contraceptives are made available with education, people in all kinds of countries will use them," he explained. "Further-

more, when basic economic needs are met, the people have fewer babies — just as the United States made that transition when our economy started meeting our basic needs."

Robert Parham, director of the Nashville-based Baptist Center for Ethics, noted that population control also is a controversial topic in some Christian circles in the United States. Some Christians, he said, consider any population control as a mask for abortion, while others are angered by the use of federal funds for family planning.

"Despite the objections of some Christians, the issue of population growth must be put on the table for discussion," Parham said. "The world's population presently stands at 5.4 billion people, having more than doubled since 1900. It is expected to increase to 8.5 billion in the next 35 years."

Christians should be concerned not only about the rate of increase, Parham said, but where it is; 90% of the anticipated growth is in developing countries.

"Most of the growth will take place in the impoverished world of the subcontinent of India, Africa,

the Middle East, and Latin America, where a greater number of people now live in poverty, suffer from malnutrition, and lose children in the early years of life than did in the late 1960s."

Population growth in developing countries places increasing pressure on the already fragile environment, Parham said.

To illustrate, he cited the flooding in Bangladesh and the loss of cropland in Sabal that have resulted from deforestation that, in turn, has resulted from the demand for firewood among a growing population.

"Flooding and farming on marginal land adversely affect food production," he said. "Population growth, environmental deterioration and declining crop yields form a vicious cycle of harm."

"Christians must recognize that unless the rate of population growth slows, the quality of human life will deteriorate dramatically and the death rate will become even more cruel. We must develop an ethic which is pro-life for all of human life, as well as life's support system."

What are some ways to begin

slowing the world's population growth? Stassen gave three basic suggestions:

— The United States should return to its policy of funding international efforts to do population control. "I think we should contact our representatives and senators and ask them to restore this funding," he said. "We should ask the same of the presidential candidates."

— The United States should return to its policy of doing serious energy conservation. "Developing countries are pointing out that one American baby consumes 50 times what one Indian baby consumes and also pollutes 50 times as much," Stassen said. "So it's hypocritical for the U.S. to try to push them to control their population when we're not doing the energy conservation here at home."

— The United States should help poor countries meet the basic needs of their people. "That's the key to persuading people to control the size of their families," he said. "If they know their babies aren't going to die, they won't have as many babies."

Palen writes for BJCPA.



STRIP WITNESSING — Jeff Wagoner, right, confers with Laura Lee Barksdale about ways to minister on the Las Vegas strip. Wagoner is mission ministries director for the Southern Nevada Baptist Association based in Las Vegas, where churches are experiencing rapid growth. Barksdale, evangelism associate for the New England Baptist Convention, met with Wagoner in May as part of a school of evangelism and church growth. (BP photo by Sarah Zimmerman)

Las Vegas: Growing churches find "Sin City" is a city of grace

By Sarah Zimmerman

LAS VEGAS (BP) — Johnny Nantz voted against having the Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas every time he got a chance.

Although he objected to the convention site, Nantz went to Las Vegas early for the pre-convention soul-winning effort. Then pastor of Memorial Heights Church in Claremore, Okla., he attended the annual meeting and went home, hoping to never again see the city's flashing lights.

When a friend gave his name to a pulpit committee for a Las Vegas church, Nantz was sure he wasn't interested. Yet the church was persistent, and God showed Nantz and his wife all their reasons for not moving were really excuses.

Six months after the convention, Nantz became pastor of Spring Valley Church in Las Vegas.

The church has since quadrupled in size, with average worship attendance reaching 400. The church broke its Sunday School attendance record 22 times in two

years. Nantz estimates two-thirds of his church's growth is from new Christians.

Green Valley Church in Henderson on the outskirts of Las Vegas grew from 16 members in January 1986 to 590 members currently. Pastor Frank Lewis said the church now has three Sunday Schools and two worship services to accommodate the 400 people who attend each week.

The Las Vegas meeting was the first time Southern Baptists went to a convention city early to participate in door-to-door witnessing. Some of the area churches are still seeing results from that effort.

A woman was given a "Here's Hope" New Testament during the convention. Two years later she came to Nantz' church asking for someone to explain the book to her. Nantz has since baptized her and her husband.

A woman who became a Christian as a result of the door-to-door campaign was one of the chapel's first members. Clark said the last

time he visited the church, she was surrounded by her neighbors who had become Christians because of her witness.

Jeff Wagoner, mission ministries director for the Southern Nevada Association, said one reason churches are growing is that the city is growing. With 800,000 people, Las Vegas is expected to reach 1 million residents by the year 2000, he said.

Nantz knows of several people who found their fortunes in Jesus Christ.

A singer at Caesar's Palace and her husband became Christians after Nantz gave her his business card. A cocktail waitress became a Christian and four of her friends came to her baptism because they had never seen a baptism. One of them later became a Christian.

"I'm reminded of Romans 5:20 that says where sin abounds, there did grace abound much more," Nantz said. "This city of sin is also the city of grace."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The valley of decision

The valley of decision is often a valley of agony. Seemingly each generation has more decisions to make and are successively more costly. It would be interesting to see a study on decisions Jesus had to make. He was assailed as a drunk, a glutton, and a son of the devil. He was offered wealth, power, and popularity. Each offer was a decision to be made.

Politically our nation is in the throes of having to make decisions involving the deterioration of our cities, racial harmony, action and attitude toward former communist nations, elections, health, welfare, and many other issues.

The Southern Baptist Convention has not escaped walking in the valley.

The SBC, meeting in Indianapolis, made several difficult decisions. Little doubt can be left as to where we stand on the homosexual issue. It will make it difficult to minister to the gay community, but such shocking behavior must be condemned. Baptists have expressed compassion for homosexuals and have prescribed repentance and redemption. Apostle Paul was willing to become all things to all men but he would not compromise his convictions. Orchids to the SBC for facing this decision head-on. I hope this is the last specific sin tied to admittance or fellowship in the convention. Abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering, and many others loom before us.

A layman thought it strange the SBC would spend so much time

on homosexuality which involves 1 or 2% of our population, and so little on marriage failure in America, which concerns about 60%.

A stunned Home Mission Board, having the Freemasonry issue dumped in its lap, declared there was no way for missions to win. "Any position we take," said HMB president Larry Lewis, "either promotes or against Masons or neutral... will generate a certain amount of ire and wrath and thus hurt missions." Most of this appears to spring from several people. Do we have the time to deal with such a minority report?

Keith Parks of the Foreign Mission Board declared the SBC controversy has hindered the spread of the gospel. Parks, retiring after 38 years in missions, said the "shift of high attendance from mission programs to the presidential election makes you wonder if messengers still place this as the highest priority. We are killing our worldwide witness."

"Love is not demonstrated in our SBC family; how can we impress the world with our love for them?" Parks declared. He estimated we have three to five years of the open door opportunity before us. Time will tell the costliness of this decision.

All things being on the surface, plainly visible, you have to hand it to Judge Paul Pressler. He stared the SBC leadership down and won. Some SBC leaders in a conference call urged the Houston, Tex., judge not to consider the Foreign Mission

Board trustee post. His election would run counter to the professed intention to "broaden the tent and it smacks of cronyism." Pressler recently completed seven years on the powerful Executive Committee. The SBC leaders declared it would not be wise for him to run, it will not be best for the SBC, but "if you do, we will support you."

Pressler could apparently read the convention better than the SBC leaders. He won an overwhelming victory.

Also, it was good to hear the new SBC President, Ed Young, say he hoped to raise the percentage of funds given from his church through the Cooperative Program. Baptists leaders have long urged churches to give a larger percentage of the plate offering to SBC causes. The SBC average is 9.8%. Second Church, Houston, where Young is pastor, is a megachurch with manifold ministries. The church gave 2.3% through the Cooperative Program last year.

Young, addressing Southeastern Seminary luncheon crowd, said, "I am tired of the 'us-them, you-they' terminology. When it comes to describing those going with God and kingdom business from now on, the terminology will be we."

Thousands will applaud Young for this statement. He has declared himself to be a bridge-builder and is well-equipped to be the man of the hour. Surely it behooves all who are interested in the causes of Southern Baptists to pray for our new president.

"I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING IN A RELIGION THAT WOULD HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH A FELLOW LIKE ME!"



O, Death, where is thy sting?

She was born in 1901. McKinley was president. The Wright brothers had yet to fly, and it would be several years before Henry Ford produced a real automobile.

Her home was Lorena, between Raleigh and Forest. She never travelled more than several hun-

dred miles from Lorena, although her children and grandchildren circled the globe. She finished the third grade for her formal education. She needed glasses at an early age. Her father bought them from a travelling "drummer." She looked through a dozen pairs until she found glasses through which she could see. The price was \$10. Her father paid the man five silver dollars, several chickens, and let him spend the night. That was in 1909.

She married in 1916 and with \$29 they set up housekeeping in a "shotgun" house. Eleven children would be born — today, eight are still living. There are 28 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She took pride in crocheting an afghan (which she persisted in calling an "african") for each grandchild and great grandchild.

In her latter years, people called her Granny. She never knew the meaning of cholesterol, the European Common Market, nor Wall Street. She did know about sassafras tea, home medical remedies, and could butcher a hog or bake a 5-layer cake for a sick neighbor. She didn't know theology from archeology but she knew the Savior. This editor was proud to call her "Moma." She went home last Sunday.

— GH

Old books and old friends

To say the book is old is like saying the grass is green. What was once a maroon cover is now a dirty brown. The title is *Mississippi Baptist Preachers* with L. S. Foster, Senatobia, Miss., as the author and Dec. 10, 1894 as the date. On the fly-leaf is written "Mrs. N. C. West, McCarley, Miss. Sept. 10, 1903."

In the preface Foster wrote, "Because of modesty of Baptist preachers (no choking here, please) and because of the general indifference of Baptists to their history, some honored names may not appear on these pages. He closes by saying, "No doubt some will be ready to criticize this work (very likely, Bro. Foster) and the pictures will not please all. Other things will not please all. Well fire away, brethren; your criticisms are all merited and more besides."

He mentioned N. Q. Adams of Choctaw County. He married Miss Catherine A. Griffith in 1857, and

joined the Confederate Army as a private in the Mississippi Regiment. He fought at Chickamauga, Tenn. and throughout Georgia, losing an arm in the battle for Atlanta. He returned to Mississippi and with one arm he could do any kind of farm work, plowing, hoeing, etc. He was a real bivocational pastor.

M. C. Allen moved with his parents at age 4 to Carroll County and later to Pontotoc. He was sent to Cherry Creek (shades of Earl Kelly) school, eight miles north of Pontotoc. At the time he would not preach but he would pray in public. He was a member at Shady Grove. After the war, he began preaching, and pastored four churches in the area. Other than being afflicted with neuralgia, he is still well (1894).

T. B. Altom, pastor near Louisville, "removed to Arkansas and died soon after." C. L. Anderson, "La Fayette County," went through Mississippi College as

"chief cook in what the boys called the frying pan brigade," and graduated in 1893.

I. H. Anding, Copiah County, was saved at the Providence Baptist Church, S. G. Mullins, pastor, who was assisted in revival services by Rev. E. L. Compere. Boys from 16 to 55 were called on for military service in 1861, and Anding went through the war "without any serious frights, flights, or fights." His brother was killed in Virginia. Rev. A. A. Lomax, recruiting agent for Mississippi College, encouraged him to go to MC, where he was graduated in 1877.

So many family names are recognized across this 150 years of history: E. A. Fant, Tippah County; W. M. Farmer of Desoto; W. J. Fortinberry, Pike; E. C. Gates, Franklin; John Jasper Green of Clarke; J. M. Kelly, Newton; and Joel Stewart, Covington, are enough to note that practically everybody in Mississip-

pi has a Baptist preacher in the family tree.

The impressive thing was their burning dedication to preach the gospel. J. B. Gambrell, while pastor at West Point rode a horse to a swollen stream, walked to a train station, crossed the river, borrowed another horse to travel the 15 miles to Starkville, and delivered the charge at an ordination service. V. H. Cowser of Holmes County made it to Mississippi College in 1883 and wrote his friends, "For the first time in my life I've rubbed my back agin a college wall." He walked five miles each Sunday to preach at Flag Chapel and "it was the happiest days of my life."

The men hungered for an education and to preach the gospel. Their main concern was for the "flock." The association and convention were important, but the church was the main emphasis. They were our forefathers and they fought a good fight and kept the faith. — GH

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Binkley rethinks gay statement, Pullen laments ouster by SBC

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (ABP) — One of the two churches ousted from the Southern Baptist Convention June 9 for condoning homosexuality has backed away slightly from its position, at least temporarily, while the other church has registered a "parting concern" about the convention's action.

Members of Olin T. Binkley Church in Chapel Hill, N.C., voted 151-24 on June 14 to rescind a statement affirming homosexuality until church members have more time to consider the issue. Binkley's pastor said the reconsideration is not related to the church's ouster by the SBC and will not

affect the church's decision to license a gay divinity student to preach — the action that first drew SBC ire.

Meanwhile, Mahan Siler, pastor of Pullen Memorial Church in Raleigh, N.C., said he is concerned that by expelling Binkley and Pullen, Southern Baptists "are making as a condition for cooperation in Christian ministry a particular position in regard to homosexuality."

The SBC's action discounts the fact that homosexuality is an issue over which "devout, learned Baptists disagree," Siler said in an open letter to Southern Baptists.

"In the face of this complex issue, dogmatism is unwarranted."

The decision by Binkley Church to rescind its earlier statement on discrimination against homosexuals is a matter of procedure, said pastor Linda Jordon.

"That did not mean that we reject the statement," Jordon said. "There is much more discussion that needs to take place."

Binkley's members met April 5 to decide whether or not to license Duke divinity student John Blevins to the gospel ministry, Jordon said, and not to adopt a church statement on homosexuality in general.

The statement was submitted by a church member for approval during the April 5 debate. The vote to rescind the statement, Jordon said, will give church members time to consider the issue thoroughly.

Since the April action, seven of Binkley's 20 deacons have resigned in protest.

The Binkley statement said homosexuals have been subjected to discrimination, harassment, misunderstanding, intimidation, and violence. Such reactions from heterosexuals contradict biblical love, the statement said, and "greatly restrict the ability of lesbians and gay men to form the life-affirming

relationships that we all desire."

It is unclear if Binkley's action will have any effect on its standing with the SBC, which called for the two churches to "respond to the teachings of the Holy Scripture by rescinding their actions."

In his open letter, Siler acknowledged the "cost" for Pullen to deal openly with the homosexual issue "has been higher than most of us expected." But he said he does not regret the church's decision earlier this year to bless the marriage-like union of two homosexual men.

This story includes information from the Raleigh NEWS AND OBSERVER.

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Drummond's finances spur IRS interest, inquiry

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) — The Internal Revenue Service is investigating the financial dealings between Southeastern Seminary and its retiring president, Lewis Drummond.

An IRS agent met on campus June 15 with Drummond and Paul Fletcher, Southeastern's Vice President for Internal Affairs. Fletcher confirmed he participated in the meeting but added, "I will not talk about that."

Both Fletcher and Southeastern Board of Trustees Chairman Roger Ellsworth confirmed the IRS inquiry concerns Drummond's personal finances and not the seminary's.

"I'm sure if it had anything to do with the seminary I would have heard about it," said Ellsworth, a pastor in Benton, Ill. "As far as I'm concerned, this is a

personal matter. I don't plan to have anything to do with it."

Drummond could not be reached for comment.

For more than a year, Drummond has been under criticism by some trustees for excessive expenses in remodeling and furnishing his office and the seminary-owned president's house. He agreed to repay \$28,000 of the \$200,000 spent on the house, although it is not known how much of the money has been repaid.

When he announced his retirement, trustees reportedly agreed to treat his repayment of the expenses as a gift to the seminary — an arrangement that apparently attracted IRS attention.

The IRS is also believed to be investigating travel expenses paid by the seminary for Drummond's

wife, Betty.

The IRS would not confirm the investigation. A spokesman said IRS policy forbids comment on investigations.

Drummond, who was under fire during much of his four-year presidency because of Southeastern's financial and academic problems, will leave his post at the end of June. Paige Patterson of Dallas was recently elected to succeed him.

When he retired, Drummond sought an agreement from trustees to "view all alleged irregularities as mistakes and to avoid publicity of these errors." Though not spelled out publicly in the retirement agreement, this was accomplished through what one trustee called "a gentleman's agreement."

Retired missions, WMU leader Crumpler blasts Indiana editorial

INDIANAPOLIS (ABP) — Cooperative missions, long the hallmark of the Southern Baptist Convention, "doesn't exist any more" because of the heavy-handed missions strategy now employed by the SBC Foreign Mission Board, said retired missions leader Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler.

Crumpler, former executive director of the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, said SBC moderate-conservatives are being falsely accused of destroying the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget that funds mission work at home and abroad.

"We're not destroying it; it

already has been destroyed," she said June 6 at the annual assembly of the Midwest chapter of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a national organization for Southern Baptists displeased with the SBC's current direction.

Giving to the Cooperative Program has stagnated in recent years, which fundamental-conservatives blame in part on the fact the alternate-funding plan of the Fellowship bypasses the Cooperative Program.

In a May 23 editorial in the Indiana Baptist titled "Pillaging a Denomination," editor Gary Ledbetter called the Fellowship's

alternate funding "vandalism" and said the group is destroying the Cooperative Program. "They have siphoned off mission money and produced little or nothing of a missionary nature," Ledbetter wrote.

Noting the damage to the Cooperative Program was already done, Crumpler also denied Ledbetter's charges that the Fellowship is "deviating from traditional Southern Baptist beliefs that missionaries should concentrate on planting churches and winning souls."

Crumpler said the Fellowship, which appointed its first four missionaries in May, is doing what (See CRUMPLER on page 10)



Mississippian Cooper remembered

Elizabeth Cooper presents a copy of *The Thought Occurred to Me* (a book about her late husband, Owen Cooper) to Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The presentation was made Wednesday morning during the recognition of former presidents of the convention at its annual meeting in Indianapolis. It was the 20th anniversary of Cooper's election as convention president in 1972 in Philadelphia, Penn. Cooper presided over the 1973 convention in Portland, Ore., and the 1974 convention in Dallas, Texas. The book was written by Don McGregor, editor emeritus of the *Baptist Record*.

Brotherhood Commission president undergoes arterial bypass surgery

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission, underwent quadruple arterial bypass surgery June 19 at Baptist Memorial Hospital East in Memphis.

Doctors for Williams, 57, called the operation a success and expect full recovery after a recuperation period lasting from four to six weeks.

Williams said in a June 17 statement that the work of the Brotherhood Commission would

"proceed as planned" during his recovery period. An interim management plan has been established, and Williams' commitments for the next four to six weeks have been delegated to the agency's executive staff.

Williams has served as Brotherhood Commission president since October, 1991. He previously served as executive vice president of the Baptist Sunday School Board and as a teacher and administrator at Southwestern Seminary.

No Baptist Record July 2

There will be no issue of the *Baptist Record* published July 2, 1992.

Our postal contract requires that we mail only 50 issues per year. Because there are 53 weeks in 1992, the *Baptist Record* will not publish issues June 11, July 2, or December 24.

Early deadlines for news will be observed for the July 9 issue, due to the July 4 holiday. Items for publication on that date should be received by the *Baptist Record* offices no later than noon on Thursday, July 1.

Pastor's Conference targets issues Baptists face

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Preachers from across the nation addressed worship, the Christian walk, witness, and spiritual warfare as they interpreted the "The Church in the 21st Century" theme at the 1992 Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Speakers at the June 7-8 meeting in the Hoosier Dome rallied around the Bible, proclaiming their insights into many current political and social issues facing Southern Baptists. The conference precedes the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 9-11.

"We hear about ... how society is going down the tubes," said pastor Mike Hamlet of First Church in Spartanburg, S.C. "It's time to stop talking about it and time to start doing something about it."

The changes start at the top, said many of the speakers, exhorting listeners to be examples.

"No church is going to rise above its leadership," said Larry Thompson, pastor of Dauphin Way Church in Mobile, Ala.

Leaders "must be willing to take risks, not chances," Thompson emphasized.

James Merritt, pastor of First Church in Snellville, Ga., noted, "If you fight this world on their battleground, you will lose every time. You can't argue anyone into heaven. Great preaching doesn't complicate the simple, but simplifies the complicated."

Many of the speakers advocated change, but outlined parameters.

Ed Young, pastor of Houston's Second Church, decried the need for change in the church.

"We do not marry methods," Young said. "The church needs to learn again how to be a friend to sinners, how to be all things to all people without compromising one syllable of God's Word."

Several speakers addressed homosexuality, a hot issue among many Southern Baptists.

"We don't have to be held hostage to homosexual lobbyists anymore because we have a standard that supercedes," said Anthony Evans, pastor of predominantly black Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship, Dallas.

On racism in America, he asked, "How can it be that we can be Christians in this society for so long and not be able to beat the race crisis?"

Jim Henry, pastor of First Church in Orlando, Fla., talked about the moral decline in America, noting, "When I was in school, if they found a guy with a condom ... they kicked him out. Today they give condoms out in school."

On homosexuality, Henry said, "Whenever I tell a person who is practicing a gay lifestyle he is

wrong, I'm not gay-bashing. I love him and care for him and don't want him to hurt himself."

"That's the highest kind of love there is," Henry said. "God condemns homosexuality but we must not close the door to these people. The good news of Jesus Christ can change them and set them free from that bondage."

Joel Gregory, pastor of First Church in Dallas, spoke of spiritual warfare in the fight against the "strong bones of indifference" to spiritual matters. He cited a recent poll in which 25% of Americans claim to be Christian while 24% claim to be other and 51% said, "I don't care," he recounted.

Prayer and praise is what is needed to fight the battle, Gregory said.

Pastor Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Church in Memphis, Tenn., talked about the message of "wor-

ship" found in Psalm 22 and told listeners to keep in mind: "The Bible has but one hero, but one villain and but one message. And the hero is Jesus, the villain is Satan, and the message is Jesus saves!"

Something "glorious" happens in reading the verses, said Rogers, pointing to Jesus as "the one who is prophet, priest, and king."

Other speakers at the conference were O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Kenneth Cooper, physician and founder of Cooper Fitness Center of Dallas.

Officers elected by acclamation for 1993 are Fred Lowery, pastor, First Church, Bossier City, La., president; Jack Millwood, pastor, First Church, North Mobile, Ala., vice president; and John Yarbrough, pastor, Tabernacle Church, Cartersville, Ga., secretary-treasurer.

Zimbabwe bread lines begin with offerings from Mississippians

By Bill Hardy

"Zimbabwe, as well as most countries in eastern and southern Africa, is experiencing the worst drought in recorded history," according to Ed Moses, disaster response coordinator for all Baptist hunger projects in Zimbabwe. Much of southern Zimbabwe is a dry, parched dust bowl. Rivers and wells are dry, and most of the cattle are dead or dying.

Because Southern Baptists, including Mississippi Baptists, are caring and sharing through gifts to the World Hunger Offering, your missionaries in Zimbabwe can respond positively to this famine. They are at the head of the bread line, distributing food.

The plan is to use missionaries and committed Baptists from local churches to begin the feeding. Already, 100 tons of grain are in the country, along with a

new truck purchased by the Foreign Mission Board for food delivery.

Under the Mississippi/Zimbabwe partnership, two college students, Cary Sims and Shawn McGlothlin of Texas A&M University, are spending the summer in southern Zimbabwe with missionaries Ron and Pat Langston. They are handling the day-to-day food distribution to approximately 20,000 people through 25 schools. By April 1993, they hope to have met the needs of 30,000 people with 2,808 tons of maize grain, 562 tons of beans, and 40 tons of salt.

As the people gather for food, the gospel is shared along with the physical food.

Farno Green, a layman from Shady Grove Church in Lincoln County, has been working with the Zimbabwe Mission on a

sorghum grain project for the fall of 1992. A young seminary couple will spend two years in southern Zimbabwe assisting farmers to grow a new variety of grain with less water. The Agricultural Mission Foundation, the Agri-Missions Fellowship, and the Mississippi/Zimbabwe partnership are collaborating with money and planning.

God is opening the doors of opportunity for much ministry and witness. The government of Zimbabwe has opened many doors because of Southern Baptist compassion and ministry.

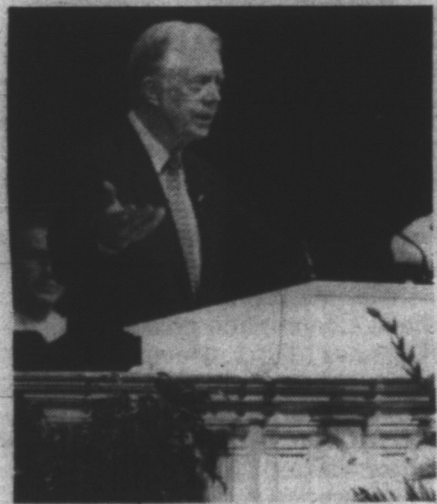
Pray for Ed and Missy Moses, and for Ron and Jan Langston. Pray for Shawn McGlothlin and Cary Sims, who are distributing food. Pray for the Agri-Missions plan to minister in Zimbabwe.

Hardy is coordinator, Zimbabwe partnership, MBCB.



Carey College goes to Indianapolis

Pictured at the William Carey College booth at the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis, left to right, are: Jim Edwards, president; Larry Kennedy, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies; and Hardy Denham, coordinator of the church-related vocational program.



Carter pleads for unity, aid to poor

Former President Jimmy Carter told Southern Seminary's graduating class that the primary form of discrimination afflicting today's society is rich people against poor people. (SBTS photo by Richard Trigg)

Mission venture rewarded in Ukraine:

Texas, Washington Baptist Men, students distribute Bibles throughout summer

DALLAS (BP) — Ongoing ministry and missions outreach in the Ukraine by Baptists from the states of Washington and Texas can only be credited to "the activity of God," according to Bob Dixon, executive director of Texas Baptist Men.

In May, Dixon led a six-person assessment team to Lugansk, Ukraine, to explore ways Baptists can minister in the former Soviet republic. During their stay, the team participated in a citywide evangelistic crusade, witnessed the launching of a student summer missionary program and a televised Bible class, delivered a water purifier, and provided funds

for the purchase of 30,000 Bibles, Christian educational materials, a car, and a van.

At the crusade, held in the Builders Palace — built by Lenin as headquarters for the Communist Party in the Ukraine — about 80% of the congregation responded to an invitation to accept Christ as Lord and Savior, Dixon recounted.

Although missionary Don English is not proficient in the Ukrainian language, seven English-speaking young people whom he led to faith in Christ are serving as his interpreters.

This summer, the seven youths — ages 18 to 25 — will receive

financial support from TBM as they distribute about 25,000 Bibles in Siberia, working with English and volunteers from two Baptist churches in Lugansk — one that had been registered and one non-registered during the years of Soviet communist control.

After Dixon described the work in the Ukraine during a speaking engagement at First Baptist Church of Alta Loma, Santa Fe, Texas, two families at the church — Joel and Pat Johnson and their three sons, and George and Drue Christian and their son — felt called to respond personally when Dixon described ways in which the Ukraine was

opening to the gospel.

The Johnsons and Christians are now living in Lugansk in apartments rented by TBM, serving with the Englishes.

In the months ahead, the Texas Baptist couples may move into two houses in the former Soviet Union that have been made available to Baptists — one in Br'ansk, Russia, and the other near Birska, just west of Siberia.

The 200-acre farm in Br'ansk was, during Lenin's reign, a pioneer camp for Soviet youth. Baptists hope to start their own youth camp there as well as build a radio station on the farm's highest hill.

Southern Baptists: Fulfilling Our Purpose

It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment. It is appointed unto each of the more than five billion people on the face of the earth once to die and then to stand one by one, face to face with the Holy God — for everyone of us shall give an account for every word spoken, every deed done, and every motive followed. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ shall not be condemned, but those who believe not are condemned already. But whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how can they believe on him of whom they have not heard, and how can they hear without a preacher, and how can they preach except they be sent? Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I, let me go." He said, "Go" and tell these people.

That call — not from people, not the Foreign Mission Board, nor the Southern Baptist Convention, but from God — has been the driving force of my life for about 42 years. It is stronger today than when it began. It preceded my relationship with the Foreign Mission Board, and it will continue long after that relationship is over.

This is my last of 13 reports to the annual gathering of the Southern Baptist Convention. Since about half of the budget you vote each year flows through this agency, I have always taken seriously the responsibility of accounting to Southern Baptists through this and other opportunities.

Because the Southern Baptist Convention Charter and Constitution both define missions as our primary purpose for being, it would be expected that those attending its annual business meeting would have high interest in that primary purpose. However, the shift of the high attendance from mission programs to presidential elections and business sessions suggest current messengers do not consider missions as our primary purpose.

I can say with a clear conscience that I have been single-minded in trying to fulfill the vision Christ gave me and to be accountable for the resources Southern Baptists have channeled through the Foreign Mission Board. Certainly I have made mistakes and fallen short of what the Lord desired. But I have faithfully tried to follow the Lord's leading.

The successes have been the results of the Holy Spirit's work, the prayers and support of those Southern Baptists who have prayed, studied, given, and gone, and in particular, the high quality and deep commitment of missionaries and staff whom God has called out. They are the finest among us — they are sound in their theology, they are consistent Christians in their walk, and they regularly sacrifice and even risk life because of their love for Christ and a lost world. Anyone who discredits them or questions their doctrinal integrity, evangelistic zeal, or their Christian commitment is speaking either from ignorance and prejudice or out of malice.

My tenure as president began just after Bold Mission Thrust was birthed. In the mid-'70s, Southern Baptists were stagnant. A blue ribbon Challenge Committee interacted extensively with many Southern Baptists. The Missions Challenge Report was adopted by the convention in 1976 and named Bold Mission Thrust in 1977. The Foreign Mission Board has based its planning on the 10 goals assigned to it. There have been many notable achievements.

The goal of 10,000 volunteers annually by the year 2000 was surpassed in 1989.

The goal of 125 countries was reached this year.

Progress is being made in other areas, but it is unlikely the other measurable goals will be reached unless there is divine intervention.

We set no financial goals in Bold Mission Thrust. We did try to initiate Planned Growth in Giving with the goal of providing adequate financial support. Southern Baptist leadership had no interest in this and the effort died. Financially we are stretching our mission resources to unmanageable limits. We have maintained a budget division of 12% stateside and 88% for overseas causes. But the financial undergirding of Bold Mission Thrust is not bold; it is not even adequate to accomplish our purpose. The Cooperative Program is weakening, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is not increasing enough to support growth. Even though the Foreign Mission Board's income has increased by 212% from 1976 to 1992, and the missionary force increased by 47% in those same years, the actual buying power per missionary has

decreased significantly due to global inflation. To use just one example, in 1976, 13% of the board's total budget was available for capital expenditure overseas, compared to 3% in 1992. The reason for this drop is that the board has had to move more and more of its budget into direct missionary support, 65% in 1992 compared to 46% in 1976, leaving less and less for capital expenditure and work funds.

The Foreign Mission Board has struggled diligently to increase our financial strength. A staff team and considerable budget have given strong and expected support to the WMU's efforts in promoting Lottie Moon. And the Foreign Mission Board from 1980 to 1992 also has invested approximately \$6,000,000 in the promotion of the Cooperative Program.

This is an average expenditure of one-half million dollars a year over the past 12 years. We have initiated a development program also, but financial resources are not adequate for Bold Mission Thrust.

In 1979, the Southern Baptist Convention had its first, and thus far only, Bold Mission Thrust extravaganza. That was the year the controversy began to dominate our lives. From then until now, the controversy has been a deterrent to and distraction from the sharing of the gospel with the world. Do not misunderstand me. I believe in and am committed to sound, biblical theology. Anyone who says otherwise is misinformed or untruthful. For 47 years, I have preached and written among Southern Baptists. Not one time has anyone ever raised a question to me about my belief in and my commitment to the Bible.

Part of my greatest regret is that when the history of Southern Baptists of this period is written, it will not be about our purpose to reach the world. It will not detail a golden age of mission outreach.

Rather, historians will focus on the controversy and will try to assess its positive and negative impacts. Were there great numbers or only a few who had faulty theology? Were their views heretical with no Bible base, or were there simply different interpretations of Scriptures? Was the controversy focused only on these few, or did it discredit and disparage many others of sound biblical credentials? Did it target suspected institutions and correct the problems, or did it undermine credibility of most Southern Baptist agencies and their leadership? Is it, in fact, a controversy over the

Bible and Southern Baptists' commitment to it, or has it degenerated into a power struggle?

Although I think the answers to these questions are obvious, I'll leave them to historians and our children to answer. Has the controversy accelerated fulfilling our purpose of sharing the gospel with all the world? Do we have more commitment to pray? Are there more of us giving more generously? Are there increasing numbers of men and women eager to give their lives as missionaries? Is our witness more effective in the world? To these questions, from an up-close viewpoint, I'd have to answer, "No!"

Three or four years ago in the remote interior of a Muslim country, a layman, after careful preparation, identified himself as a Southern Baptist. The Muslim's response, "Oh, you are the Christians who are fighting each other." In a European country, two years of witness

were negated as the local young woman told the missionary she had seen a report about Southern Baptists on CNN. She could not reconcile our quarreling with witness about the gospel of love. More and more candidates are dropping out of the appointment process, while more and more Baptists are reluctant to continue giving.

Just at the time of greatest opportunity faced by any Christian group of any age ever, when more peo-

ple are ready to respond to the gospel than have ever been prepared, we are killing our witness. The one most distinctive characteristic of Christianity is love. "God is love" (1 John 4:16). "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us (1 John 4:12). We are not demonstrating love even to the whole Southern Baptist family.

We desperately need to do so. We have always been a mix which included the Sandy Creek tradition with its informal worship, suspicion of an educated clergy, warm evangelism — believing the gospel. The other stream flowing into our Baptist river from the Charlestonian branch has more emphasis on order in worship, an educated ministry emphasizing discipleship and service to the needy and hurting — doing the gospel. In the past, there have been frequent swings of leadership from one group to the other that have provided a reasonable balance. We desperately need each other for this balance.

However, when there is organized control enforced by intimidation and reward and punishment, we impoverish our richness and lose our biblical balance. Through our previous history, this unplanned balance generated by action and reaction has enabled us to avoid the spiritual sterility of groups to our left, and the dogmatic rigidity of those to our right. If we exclude either stream of our heritage, we lose our balance; we diminish our richness; jeopardize our future; and risk one of these unfortunate extremes. We also exclude spiritual, human, and financial resources needed to reach the world. We desperately need the whole family.

The opportunity beyond our imagining is before us. But how many of us prayed or expected the wall to fall and 12 time zones of the earth to open suddenly to the gospel? When my missionary career was still forming, I thought the world might be closed off

to witness by communism. In the early years of this decade, countries were closing to missionary presence at an average rate of two a year. Suddenly, with relatively little bloodshed and in a flicker of a moment of time, the opportunities are beyond my ability to exaggerate.

I tremble that we as Southern Baptists are so fragmented, so full of anger, and so short on love, we may be passed by while God finds someone else.

I've been put in a situation where I cannot be true to my calling in this role. But God's call has not been revoked — I'm praying he will still find me usable in fulfilling his calling to me. I hope to say I have not been disobedient to my heavenly vision. I pray that you can make that same confession.

What will it take if Southern Baptists fulfill our purpose in this opportune moment? The Home and Foreign Mission boards and their missionaries cannot carry the load alone. It will require some things that have not been apparent in recent years. It will require strong, unquestioned commitment to missions by those who are the decision makers and opinion shapers among Southern Baptists.

It will require enthusiastic, discernible, tangible support by elected Southern Baptist Convention officers who deliberately bring missions, not just evangelism, back to the center stage of our convention.

It will require all agency leadership working together in agreed upon ways recognizing that the ultimate well being, as well as that of the whole denomination, is a by-product of a strong mission emphasis.

It will require pastors — especially those of trend setting churches — to first face honestly the possible personal call to missions. It will require them to call out the called. Then to lead these churches to participate in mission support of the denomination's mission program. Giving 1-3% of their income beyond themselves and their own control will not support our primary purpose, nor will it challenge other Southern Baptists to get serious about reaching a world.

If we fulfill our purpose, it will require a biblical understanding and practice of evangelism which includes all the world. It is neither biblical nor practical when missions and evangelism are considered and practiced as though they were mutually exclusive. We vigorously condemn anyone who would teach the heresy of universalism — meaning that all will ultimately somehow be saved whether they believe in Christ or not. Yet, evangelism that fails to share Christ beyond our borders where most of the lost live is practicing that very heresy of universalism.

What will it require? It will require death to self for individual churches and our denomination to allow Christ within to take us to the ends of the earth.

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how can they believe on him of whom they have not heard, and how can they hear without a preacher and how can they preach except they be sent? Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I, let me go." He said, "Go" and tell these people.

You have a decision card. You may be confused and uncertain about ways of serving and channels to follow. But the calling is from God to you to go to a lost world. I'm asking you to rise above the confusion of human structures and commit to go to fulfill your calling. Whatever that calling is — to go, to pray more, to give more, or to love more — be obedient to your calling, fulfill your purpose.

Has the controversy accelerated fulfilling our purpose of sharing the gospel with all the world? Do we have more commitment to pray? Are there more of us giving more generously?

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 25, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

ZIMBABWE EXPERIENCE

Called and Accountable, by Doug Broome, Pastor Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro, Miss.

The Mississippi Partnership with Zimbabwe sounded like an excellent mission project when I heard Dr. Causey present this plan to members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. I concurred with his assessment that this would be a tangible way through which we could express our commitment to missions. Because of my desire to see Mississippi Baptists engaged in the task of fulfilling the Great Commission, I cast an affirmative vote in support for this partnership.

One critical factor I failed to consider seriously when I voted for the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership was that I was personally included in the scope of this mission project. I had mistakenly assumed that my role in this partnership would be to pray, give, and promote this partnership in order that God could send other Mississippians to Zimbabwe. You can imagine how shocked I was when Dr. Causey asked me to pray about going. As I began to pray about this matter I was reminded of the WMU book entitled *Called and Accountable*. With each passing day God confirmed to me that Mississippi Baptists (including myself) have been called to missions. I also began to realize in a new way that we are personally accountable to God for the manner in which we respond to this call.

I want to encourage every Mississippi Baptist to do what Dr. Causey asked me to do—pray about going to Zimbabwe. You may discover that God is calling you to go. If so, remember that God holds you accountable for the way you respond to his call. Remember also that God's call to missions is a blessing rather than a burden. I will always cherish the time I spent in Zimbabwe. **HT**

Zimbabwe Construction needs Carpenter, Mason

A late request from Zimbabwe requests three block layers and one carpenter for a church in the interior of the country near Gokwe. The time requested is for 3-4 weeks in order to construct the building walls, build roof trusses, and complete the roof.

The church has met the requirement for foundation, money for materials, and will have volunteers to help. Evangelistic services may be conducted in the evenings.

Details are available through the Mississippi/Zimbabwe partnership office. Call Bill Hardy at 968-3800 for more information. **HT**

Homecoming

*By Randy Tompkins
Sunday School Department*

Each year, during this time of year, churches throughout Mississippi plan for and experience an event called "HOMECOMING". This is usually a festive time in the life of a church. A time of seeing friends and relatives, visiting childhood places, caring for needs that have been left unattended, and enjoying

the fellowship of a warm place—the "home church". Church leaders should extend the scope of homecoming beyond those that have moved away and those that happen to come by on a special day. The event should also include those who live in the ministry area of the church. What better way for a prospect to see the love and warmth a church has than to be in attendance on a "homecoming" day. A move to this concept would

allow the church to keep all the concepts and attitudes currently relating to "Homecoming". It would also add one dimension to the day—outreach.

The Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, has produced a plan kit to help churches make this transition. It is entitled, "Coming Home Visitation/Evangelism Plan Kit". It can be purchased at the Baptist Bookstore. **HT**

Discipleship Training Conference

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
July 9-11, 1992

**"DISCIPLEALL:
MAKING CHAMPIONS"**

- Age Group Leadership Conferences
- Special Interest Conferences
- Bible Drill Leader Conferences
- Masterbuilder Workshop
- Daycare/Kindergarten Directors Conference
- Recreation-Coaching Conference
- Associational D.T. Leader Conference
- Olympic Games
- Bonfire Worship Service



gulfshore '92

Space is still available. Call or write Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
100 First St., Pass Christian, MS 39571 (452-7261)

CHURCH MUSIC LEADERSHIP

July 16-18, 1992

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, MS

CHILDREN

PRESCHOOL CHOIR LEADERSHIP - Charlotte McElroy
...a methods and materials class for all teachers who work with preschool choirs. Study course credit given. A continued class with 5 sessions. Resource: How to Lead Preschoolers in Musical Activities

YOUNGER CHILDREN'S CHOIR LEADERSHIP - Cyndy Hewell
...a methods and materials class for all teachers who work with younger children's choir. Study course credit given. A continued class with 5 sessions. Resource: How to Lead Children's Choirs

OLDER CHILDREN'S CHOIR LEADERSHIP - Maryann Tyler
...a methods and materials class for all teachers who work with older children's choir. Study course credit given. A continued class with 5 sessions. Resource: How to Lead Children's Choirs

BASIC KODALY - Karen Hardy
...learn how to use the Kodaly hand signs in teaching ear training and music reading. Offered twice. Resource: Using Kodaly & Orff in the Church

ADAPTING ORFF TO EVERYDAY RHYTHM - Joy Carter
...how to adapt Orff techniques to rhythm instruments and keyboard. A basic class for all children's choir leaders and teachers.

CHOIR DISCIPLINE - Rebecca Prater
...practical applications of discipline in the children's choir rehearsal. Offered twice. Resource: Discipline: Who Needs It?

COMBINED AGE CHOIR (1-6) LEADERSHIP - Sarah Talley
...an overview of the combined age literature, grades 1-6. Methods on how to work with combined ages. Offered once.

COORDINATING CHOIRS - Katrina Marler
...a practical administration class for choir coordinators and ministers of music. A continued class with 2 sessions.

DIRECTING BASICS FOR CHILDREN'S CHOIR - Barry Tweedy
...helps on the musical interpretation of songs and how to communicate that through directing preschool - older children. Offered twice. Resource: Leading and Accompanying Children's Singing

FIRST TIME WORKERS - Lida Stark
...the basics of working in children's choir. Includes how to use the literature and how to have a choir session. Offered once.

PLAYING THE AUTOHARP - Katrina Marler
...a basic session on how to play the autoharp. Learn how easy it is to accompany songs. Limited to 12 people per session. Offered 3 times. Resource: Using the Autoharp with Preschoolers and Children

PLAYING THE RECORDER - Joy Carter
...a basic session on how to play the recorder. Limited to 15 people per session. Offered twice. Resource: Let's Play the Recorder

SUGAR STICKS - Lida Stark
...tried and true songs and activities that every choir director

and worker should know. Offered 3 times.

TEACHING CHILDREN'S MUSICALS - Maryann Tyler
...Offered Once.

THE CHILD'S VOICE - Rebecca Prater
...concepts on teaching the child to sing correctly (preschool - 6th grade). offered twice. Resource: Teaching Children to Sing

USING PUPPETS WITH CHILDREN - Lyn McCoy
...how to make puppets and use them in your children's choir sessions. Offered 3 times.

KEYBOARD

ORGAN - David Lowe
...emphasis on service playing which includes solo and accompanying responsibilities, methods, materials. A continued class with 5 sessions. Study course credit given. Resource: The Pedalpoint Organist

PIANO - Irene Martin
...emphasis on the responsibilities and needs of the pianist in a small church and the pianist with little experience. A continued class with 5 sessions. Study course credit given. Resource: Five Practical Lessons for the Church Pianist

ELECTRONIC KEYBOARDS AND OTHER ELECTRONIC MEDIUM - Darwin Brooks
...the methods and materials presented will encourage, enlighten and challenge the church pianist who has advanced keyboard training and experience. A continued class with 5 sessions.

A POTPOURRI - Dot Pray and Keyboard Conference Leaders
...Something old, something borrowed and something NEW.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY THE PIANO - Gaye Sikes
...an easy, fun guide to playing hymns for your enjoyment! Will need text book by Jo Ann Butler which has same title as class - available in the Baptist Bookstore. A continued class with 3 sessions.

HANDBELLS

BASIC HANDBELLS FOR DIRECTORS - Jerry Talley/Sheila Hess
...an introduction to the handbell ministry including equipment, organization, music and techniques needed to direct. Some "hands on" ringing. Offered once.

ENSEMBLE, SOLO AND ADVANCED HANDBELL TECHNIQUES - Jerry Talley
...for directors, solo and ensemble ringers. Special techniques, bell assignments, and exercises to facilitate the growing director and ringers. A continued class with 2 sessions.

HANDBELL RINGERS - Jerry Talley
...for experienced ringers (selected by audition). Audition times 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. on Thursday.

CHILDREN'S HANDBELL AND CHIME LEADERSHIP - Sheila Hess

...introduction to methods and materials for older children's handbells and choir chimes. A continued class with 2 sessions.

INSTRUMENTAL

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES FOR THE CHURCH ORCHESTRA - John Hanbery
...a discussion on the seating of the orchestra, the tuning of the orchestra, intonation problems and conducting techniques. Offered once.

OPEN SESSION ON INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC - John Hanbery
...share ideas, methods and materials related to instrumental music. Bring your questions and problems. Offered once.

CHURCH MUSIC LEADERSHIP

YOUTH MUSIC THAT WORKS! - Susan Clark
...unison, 2, 3, and 4 part youth choir selections that are tried and true. Offered once.

CHURCHES ASSOCIATING MUSICALLY - Jimmy McCaleb
...class for associational music directors, area associational music coordinators. Provides ideas for these music leaders to use in coordinating music events, materials, and other resources among churches of the association as well as ideas for utilizing the associational music ministry for the benefit of all churches and music leaders. Offered once.

CHURCH MUSIC R. F. D. OVERVIEW - Jimmy McCaleb
...what an R. F. D. church music conference can do for your association. Offered once.

YOUR BODY LANGUAGE AND CONDUCTING - Robert Burton
...Offered once.

SCORE PREPARATION - Robert Burton
...offered once.

BUILDING TONE QUALITY IN YOUR CHOIR - Robert Burton
...A continued class with 2 sessions.

CONDUCTING - Robert Burton
...A continued class with 2 sessions.

YOUR MUSIC MINISTRY AND WORSHIP - Greg Skipper
...what part does choir play and what are the responsibilities of the choir? Offered once.

SOME "DO'S AND DON'TS" FOR THE MINISTER OF MUSIC - Greg Skipper
...practical suggestions for improving relationships with pastor, staff and congregation.

YOU CAN SERIES - Greg Skipper
...Offered once.

READING SESSION FOR SMALL TO MEDIUM SIZE CHURCH - Greg Skipper
...A continued class with 2 sessions.

BIBLE STUDY - Ken Alford
...Offered 3 times.

MISSISSIPPI PRAYERGRAM June 25-July 9, 1992

Pray for Baptist leaders of Europe who have accepted the evangelistic challenge of the "new Europe." The 32 member bodies from across the continent approved the feasibility study of establishing an "inner-European missionary agency." This is an important step forward.

Continue to pray for the Fulanis, a nomadic tribe of West Africa—especially in Nigeria. There are some 6 million Fulanis and they have had little opportunity to hear the message of salvation in Christ.

Pray for Baptists of Central America as they attempt to minister to unreached ethnic groups within their country. Especially remember the Mosquito Indians in Nicaragua who are becoming receptive to the gospel.

Pray for Bob Walden, Braelinn Baptist Church, Peachtree City, Ga., who is directing the church's prayer room ministry. One of the chief objects of this ministry is for revival of churches and spiritual awaken-

ing of the suburban Atlanta community. Pray for your own church and community and spiritual awakening in our nation.

Pray for Elmer Mundy of Duluth, Minn. He is retired from full-time ministry, and is church growth pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Rice Lake, Wis. Pray for a volunteer couple to move to the church field to help him with evangelism and other aspects of ministry.

Pray for the Weekday Ministries at Wake-Eden Christian Academy in the Bronx, N.Y. Elloine Bruce directs this ministry but is in poor health and is at retirement age. Pray that a replacement can be found to direct the ministry.

Pray for the family of Chiquita ("Chickie") Hood, 29 of Birmingham, Ala., a volunteer medical relief coordinator, who died when a truck collided with the taxi in which she was riding. Chickie had been working

with the Kurdish people in Iraq and was taking a brief vacation from the harsh conditions.

Don't forget to pray for the 96 students of the Mississippi Baptist Student Union who are serving as summer missionaries in the homeland and in several foreign countries. Pray that they will have good health and will be able to adapt to the circumstances and needs of the places where they serve.

Pray for the more than 300 Kazakhs who came to the United States to participate in the Kazakh-American festival in May. Mississippi hosted 24 of these delegates. Pray for their Christian witness to the Kazakh houseguests as they return to their homes.


Pray for camps and conferences among Mississippi children and young people: G.A. and Acteens Camps at Garaywa; R.A. and G.A. camps at Central Hills and Youth Conferences at Gulfshore. **HT**

The Department of Student Work extends an invitation to your church to show support for its college students.

Plan a worship experience which will highlight the **On-To-College** event for the entire church. Involve students in leading worship. Invite students to participate by singing in the college choir, by providing special music, by leading in prayer, by reading Scripture, by sharing their testimony, or by serving as ushers. The Department of Student work has an order of worship and further information which will be helpful in planning this special service.

AT RIGHT IS A SAMPLE BULLETIN INSERT FOR "ON-TO-COLLEGE" SUNDAY IN AUGUST. Bulletin inserts are available from the Department of Student Work at no charge to your church. Please submit your order form by **July 15th** to insure arrival for use in August.

Department of Student Work, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.



Discovering New Opportunities

1992
On-To-College
Emphasis

Discipleship Training Study Materials

Walk where Jesus walked...step by step (New Item) Christians strive to walk as Jesus did (1 John 2:6). Following His pattern requires that we know His life and teachings, as portrayed in the inspired words of the New Testament.

Step by Step Through the New Testament illuminates the New Testament account of Jesus and the struggles and victories of the early church. The 13-session LIFE course surveys the New Testament, providing a framework for understanding and interpreting it. The course also leads believers to apply the timeless truths of the New Testament to a Christian life-style.

Resources include:

- Step by Step Through the New Testament member's book (7609-12)
- Step by Step Through the New Testament leader's guide (7610-12)

Walk where Jesus walked and learn of Him.

Give Christ first place

Christ is Lord of your life. That includes not only your abilities and resources but also your body and mind.

First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program is a unique Lay Institute for Equipping (LIFE) course that will help you improve your mental, physical, and emotional health under Christ's lordship. Thirteen sessions on healthful eating habits, exercise, self-control, life-style decisions, and victories in daily life will improve the quality of your life and will help you make Christ number one.

Give Christ first place. Study *First Place: A Christ-Centered Health Program* in a group at church. Materials include a member's notebook, four Bible studies, a leader's guide, a leader's guide refill pack, and a supplemental videotape.

God has a Word for you

No matter what your background and situation are, the Bible is relevant to your life. God's eternal Word speaks to needs and problems today as effectively as it has for centuries.

The Doctrine of the Bible by David S. Dockery reveals the relevance of the Bible for people today. Discussing the inspiration of the Scriptures, the history of the Bible, and the formation of the canon, this book highlights the fact that the bible is authoritative for all areas of the Christian life: personal morality, discipleship, the beliefs and practices of the church, and missions efforts. The study also magnifies the Bible's witness to the preeminence and lordship of Jesus Christ.

Discover God's timeless Word for your life. Study the *Doctrine of the Bible* individually or in a group at church. **HT**

All of these materials are available from a Baptist Book Store or from the Customer Service Center, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-2772.

BREAK THROUGH GREAT COMMISSION BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE FOR PARTICIPATING CHURCHES

A participating church will receive help from a trained consultant. The consultant will make several visits to the church throughout the project. The basic thrust of the project is to assist church staff and members to dream and set actions that will allow a BREAKTHROUGH in fulfilling the GREAT COMMISSION to happen.

The GREAT COMMISSION BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT will utilize an approach to achieving the goals

that is different than most other growth projects. There will be no "set program" brought to the church by the consultant. Each church will have the program designed for them by their consultant. If you would like to receive more information about your church becoming a PARTICIPATING CHURCH in the GREAT COMMISSION BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT, fill out the following form and mail it to: Randy Tompkins Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. **HT**

Name	Church		
Position in the Church			
Address	City	State	Zip

WANTED!

- Leaders with Vision
 - Leaders with Sensitivity
 - Leaders with Commitment
- TO**

Participate in the Mississippi River Ministry

AT

Eudora Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.

ON

August 7-8, 1992

Beginning Friday at 1:00 p.m., Closing Saturday 3:30 p.m.

All Mississippi Baptists interested in Missions are invited to participate in this seven-state convocation. Partial scholarships are available through the Cooperative Missions Dept., Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Inquirers may call 968-3800, Ext. 3961.

Return this form to apply for scholarship assistance to: Cooperative Missions Dept., P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Name	Phone		
Address	City	State	Zip
Position in Church			
Position in Association			
Motel reservations should be made by participant; motel list available upon request. <input type="checkbox"/> (check if needed)			

HOUSE OF LORDS



Letters to the editor



The people speak

Editor:

I have always been proud to say that I am a graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College. Right now I am ashamed to say that I am a graduate of Mississippi College. The reason is for what they are trying to do to Clarke. I can understand the closing. That's ok. What I can't understand is why a lawyer was sent to inform Clarke instead of the president going himself. Mississippi Baptists want some answers. Why was the original document to merge never filed with the Secretary of State? Why was a new document just recently filed? Why are we not being informed about these things through our Baptist Record.

Mississippi College, if you take Clarke's name, and Clarke's library, and the bequest money and the property, Mississippi Baptists will not soon forget. The thing for you to do is to turn all of Clarke back to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. That includes the endowment also. What Southern Baptists were accused of doing to Ruschlikon is small compared to what you are doing to Clarke. At least there was a good reason for Ruschlikon. Come on, Mississippi College, make me and other Mississippi Baptists proud of you again. All we are asking is that you turn everything back to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Albert McMullen
Stonewall

Looking for relatives

Editor:

If you are related to or know of family for J. W. Dickens, A. L. Kirkwood, or A. L. Greenwood, who served in New Orleans between the years 1935-1946, please contact Mrs. Meredith D. Johnson, Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans, 2222 Lakeshore Dr., New Orleans, LA 70122 (504) 282-1428. Thanks for your help!

Meredith Johnson
Secretary, Association,
Greater New Orleans

Regarding Miss Lola

Editor:

Lola Mae Autry, 40 years the wife of a rural Mississippi Baptist pastor and now his widow, recently came to Honduras with a volunteer work team. At this time she renewed fellowship with a person from her past, Bob Williams, music missionary in Honduras.

Bob Williams had been one of 20 boys and girls in Miss Lola's 1939 instrument band. Four year old Bob, who lived down the street from Miss Lola in Memphis, and his family weren't active in a church at that time, but this didn't stop Miss Lola from inviting him to join the group at Central Avenue Baptist Church.

Bob has vivid memories of his experiences in the band which really underscores the importance of the influence of Christian workers in the lives of children. And while most of us will have to wait until eternity to find out some of the results of our labor, Miss Lola only waited 50 years. She said, "Now I know how one of those 20 turned out."

As for Miss Lola, while Bob serves the Lord in Honduras, she is busy at Pine Grove Church, Hickory Flat, Miss., teaching Sunday School, conducting three choirs, and no doubt influencing another generation.

Myra Shofner
Honduran Baptist Mission

Read in amazement

Editor:

I read with amazement the article "Tony Senora: God's man on Smoky Mountain" (Baptist Record, May 28, 1992, p. 1). It is unbelievable that 20,000 people live in a garbage dump, and have continued to live (if you can call it living) for over 40 years like this.

Tony and Anita Senora are even more amazing. This is a dedicated pastor and pastor's wife! They are there by choice. When many would opt for greener, more appealing pastures, they have followed the Lord's direction into what seems to be possibly the most disgusting lowly place of service on this earth. There are certainly many good examples for us all in this story.

I find this article by Michael Chute of the Foreign Mission Board to be a real eye-opener! I would like to be able to read an entire book on this Manila Dump and all those who are living and serving there. This is the first I've ever heard of it. Is there anything else written on the subject?

The article didn't mention an address for the Senoras or Co-Worker Baptist Church where they serve. Is it possible to write them or send them assistance and supplies? If so, please print the information in the paper for those who would like to help or write letters of encouragement. I know I'm eager to do something; I've never heard of a more desperate need than theirs. It's a shame that 40 years have only served to enlarge this city in a dump! Even dogs don't belong in a dump.

Steve Hesterman
Beaumont

Editor's Note: One way to help is by supporting world hunger funds through the Foreign Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, Va., 23233.

Exclusive leadership?

Editor:

It appears that the perception of some who complain about the leadership being exclusive when it should be inclusive is nothing more than a veiled attitude of enti-

tlement. After all, one must be nominated to be elected by a majority vote of the messengers.

If one is not nominated, he is unlikely to be elected. This is not the fault of the SBC or MCB leadership whatever their theological stance — liberal, moderate, or conservative. The voice of the majority of Southern Baptists have spoken. I, personally, have never met a Southern Baptist that I would want out of the convention. I count it a privilege to work with so many outstanding men and women to carry out the Great Commission. Nevertheless, most of those I know have never been nominated, elected, asked to lead a prayer, or anything else in the state or national conventions. These people are neither unorthodox nor unqualified, just not nominated, i.e., undiscovered.

I wonder if it is not pride that drives a few to cry "foul" and accuse our elected leaders as if unfairly losing that they deserved. The only things any Christian deserves is death and hell. Everything above that is grace from God. If someone suspects something amiss in the leadership or electoral process of our conventions let him or her handle it according to the constitution and by-laws. The only thing accomplished by the kind of behavior reported over the past years is public affirmation to all why one wasn't nominated or elected.

Bill Ferrand
Pastor, Springdale Church
West

Theology is no longer FMB issue

Editor:

As a missionary to Japan over a span of four decades, I recall visits by Baker J. Cauthen to our mission meetings. In response to any request, he always asked, "What do the missionaries think?" then followed with, "What do the Japanese Baptists think?" For him, these were vital factors to be weighed heavily in any decision made by the Foreign Mission Board.

In recent defunding of the (Ruschlikon) seminary in Switzerland, and the early resignation of Keith Parks as president of the Foreign Mission Board, it is seen that this approach to foreign mission work no longer prevails in the board. In a recent visit to Europe, interviews with our missionaries there revealed low morale, and a great loss of confidence in Southern Baptists. With unprecedented opportunities to share the gospel in Eastern Europe, it is tragic to see our long-established relationships with European Baptists destroyed through arrogance and disdain for their feelings.

In addition, the ugly way (Dan) Martin of the Baptist Press was fired in a closed and guarded session of the Executive Committee, and to read of outlandish sever-

ance benefits paid to get rid of certain unwanted leaders is indeed shocking. Theology is no longer the issue. Many fine Bible-believing leaders have been put down simply for not joining the ruling party.

I am grateful for state Baptist papers such as the Baptist Record, and Baptist New Mexican, edited by former Mississippi pastor J. B. Fowler. We look to you to tell us the truth about what is happening. You have survived in spite of being often misunderstood, and frequently maligned. As a man with broad experience as pastor, foreign missionary, and evangelist, you are a most valuable asset in preserving Southern Baptists from radical and destructive forces.

When asked, "What is this controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention all about?" I always reply, "Read your state Baptist paper carefully and regularly, and you will come to understand." That is true, and I hope it continues to be true, for it is our greatest source of hope.

Curtis Askew
Retired missionary to
Japan
Albuquerque, N. M.

Stop the moaning

Editor:

Our risen, reigning Lord Jesus declared of himself in Revelation 3:7: "He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens" (NASV).

Therefore, let the moaning, the groaning, the wringing of hands over the future of our foreign missions program cease.

The retirement of one puny human being cannot interrupt it and cannot close any door he wills to remain open.

Louise Shannon
Yazoo City

Doctrine of "election" damaging

Editor:

I just received in the mail (free and unsolicited) a book written by Robert B. Selph entitled *Southern Baptists and the Doctrine of Election*.

This letter is more to raise questions than to give answers. The questions are: Why do people who adhere to the doctrine of "election" insist on pushing their belief on others, and why is their insistence so intense, so urgent? Of what value is it to God, others, or themselves?

This man was simply rehashing an issue that has proven itself totally unnecessary for either salvation or victorious Christian living. Not one shred of knowledge about these people's teachings about election is necessary in order for a lost person to get saved or for a saved person to live a sound

Christian life.

Certainly teaching Bible doctrines is important, but to teach one so rabidly to the exclusion of others of greater importance is unsound doctrine itself.

In his book, the author attempted to prove his point by quoting other men.

Free will belongs to the soul, not the spirit.

Decisions are made by the soul, not the spirit.

Faith is a necessary element in salvation (Heb. 11:6). Faith is both a gift of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:9) and a gift of God (Eph. 2:8). However, faith is given only to believers and belief is the responsibility of the hearer (John 3:18). God does not give saving faith to an unbeliever.

God does not give belief.

God gives the ability to believe, but belief or unbelief is a human response to hearing the Word of God.

Regardless of who promotes the doctrine of "election," regardless of how it is promoted, it still has proven to be one of the most damaging, church-splitting doctrines that preceded "tongue talking."

The Bible still ends with the great promise, "And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17, in part).

Bryant Benton
Pastor, First Church
Steens

Decries ordination of homosexuals

Editor:

The Pontotoc County Baptist Association is concerned about recent events in North Carolina, especially the ordination of a self-proclaimed homosexual to the ministry.

The Bible teaches extensively that homosexuality is sin and that those who preach or teach the Word of God are to be examples to the laity. That example does not include open rebellion to God.

At its annual spring meeting on April 27, the Pontotoc County Baptist Association took a strong, united stand against the ordination of homosexuals. As long as we sit back and do nothing, we are implying to the rest of the world that we condone this action. It does not matter that this did not take place within the borders of the state of Mississippi, we are still affected. We can remain silent no longer. If we are to be salt and light to the world, we must let the world know that we disapprove of actions that are contrary to the Word of God.

Since that meeting, we have learned that the church involved has been withdrawn from the association. We agree with the action taken by the North Carolina association. It is our prayer that the church will repent of its action and be restored to fellowship.

Gerald Bell
Moderator, Pontotoc
Association

Homecomings

Pilgrim's Rest Church (Attala): June 28; 10:45 a.m.; Ronald Ballard, director of missions, Carroll-Montgomery Association, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; Alton Milner, Pilgrim's Rest Church, music; no Sunday School; first homecoming in brick sanctuary; Walter Hines, pastor.

Mt. Nebo Church, Collinsville: June 28; 110th anniversary; worship, 10 a.m.; fellowship meal will follow; 1:30 p.m. Services will include the Good News Singers, cemetery association business; memorial services, and history highlights; Michael Trubett, pastor.

Bond Church, Wiggins: June 28; 11 a.m.; Bill Taylor, Gulfport, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; afternoon singing, 1:30; Vision from Hattiesburg will be guest singers; Andy Foutz, pastor.

Palestine Church, Harrisville:

June 28; Sammy J. McDonald, III, guest speaker for morning service; lunch served; business meeting and singing in afternoon; Carl Burns, pastor.

New Providence Church, (Cotiah): July 5; Dexter Ware, speaker; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; preaching, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Eddie Maher, pastor.

Shiloh Church (Lawrence): July 5; B. Gray Allison, president, Mid America Seminary, Memphis, speaker; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing; Richard Green, pastor.

Stanton Church Natchez: July 12; 10:15 a.m. fellowship meal at noon; former pastors and members, speakers.

Rome Church, Rome: Aug. 9; beginning 10:30 a.m.; former pastors, guest speakers; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; Terry Tribble, pastor.

Sermon notes jog listeners' memories

By Keith Hinson

NASHVILLE (BP) — Some people are restless during the Sunday sermon. They doodle on the bulletin, which is discarded soon after the service.

But a growing number of pastors are encouraging their listeners to write down something worth saving: notes from the sermon.

The practice has become popular in some churches, where a high percentage of the congregation is busy taking notes while the preacher preaches.

"It seems to me that almost everybody in our church is taking notes," said Buddy Gray, pastor of Hunter Street Church in Birmingham, Ala. "The response has been overwhelming. People love it."

Gray and other pastors encourage note-taking by inserting a sermon outline in the Sunday bulletin. The outline usually lists the main points of the sermon and omits a few key words, which are written by the congregation as they "fill in the blanks."

David Dykes, pastor of Green Acres Church, in Tyler, Texas, said, "I've had parents say that even their youngest child uses the outline and fills in the blanks. It makes the chil-

dren listen to the sermon."

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., cited a survey by the United States Air Force. "It was discovered that we forget 90-95% of what we hear within 72 hours, if we don't write it down," he said. "If you want a statistic to depress the average pastor, that's it."

"What that means is I spend 16-20 hours preparing a message for Sunday. I get up, I deliver it and they've already forgotten it by Wednesday. They only remember maybe 5%, unless they write it down," Warren said.

Some laypeople keep their sermon notes in a file or binder.

Nathan Blackwell, pastor of Cornerstone Church in St. Cloud, Fla., told of a couple in his church who were counseling friends in a troubled marriage.

"They were able to go back and pull out some of the outlines from my series, 'Building a Strong Marriage.' That helped them minister," Blackwell said. "I've had that happen on more than one occasion."

Hinson is a bivocational pastor and free-lance writer in Montevallo, Ala.

Former Collins pastor dies at 96

William Bryan Abel, 96, retired pastor of Collins Church, died in Noxapater, June 20. Funeral services were held Monday, June 22 at Noxapater Church. Burial was

in Mount Carmel Cemetery. Westbrook Funeral Home in Louisville was in charge of arrangements.

Abel is survived by a daughter, Peggy A. Sills of Houston, Texas.

Yates resigns CBF committee

Jim Yates of Yazoo City has resigned from the steering committee of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He presently serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

McClary: Wife's commitment crucial during pastoral crises

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — "Honey, please don't leave me," said a man whose voice was the only thing left Deanna McClary recognized.

She was only 19 and married just six months when her husband, Lt. Clebe McClary, left their South Carolina home for the jungles of Vietnam, she told nearly 800 women attending the 37th annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference and Luncheon during the June 9-11 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis.

Eight months later she received word her husband had received severe shrapnel wounds to all extremities, resulting in the loss of all his teeth, one eye, and his left arm. The telegram read, "Prognosis very slim."

When she first saw her husband in his hospital room, she didn't recognize him and turned to leave until she heard his familiar voice begging her to stay.

After two and a half years of recuperation and 24 major surgeries, McClary and her husband began to feel their lives had taken on some sense of normalcy again — as much normalcy as life without an eye and an arm could have. "Clebe, a military officer, an outdoorsman, a man's man, had to depend on me to get him ready ... to tie his shoes and

button his shirt," McClary said.

"And I would rather be tying my husband's shoes than anything else," she said.

Statistics show over 80% of wives of Vietnam veterans left their husbands, she recounted. Some wives threw their wedding rings at their husbands as they lay on their hospital beds, she said, while others simply dropped them in the trash on the way out of the room, saying, "You're only half a man now," leaving their husbands physically and emotionally devastated.

Equating her experiences to traumatic events in marriages of couples in the ministry, especially the epidemic of forced terminations, McClary said, "Keep on standing next to your man in these days when everything seems to be turning against him."

"Commitment is slowly giving way to convenience," said McClary, a native of Florence, S.C. "It's commitment that will make a difference in our future."

"Clebe and I took the word divorce out of our vocabulary. ... If you feel like quitting ... remember the key in life: Learn to give yourself away."

"People leave because they're unwilling to cope with life's high demand. ... Marriage is an investment. ... The more you give, the

more you'll get.

"Don't say, 'I wish I could ... You've got talents and gifts you've never tapped into,'" said McClary, a woman who always thought herself ugly and stupid while growing up. She has since won several beauty pageants, including first place in the Mother-Daughter of America pageant with one of her two daughters. She is also an accomplished Christian vocal artist.

"Weakness is nothing more than undeveloped strength," she said. "Begin to use your gifts. You never get tired when you use your gifts. ... Don't put off being the woman God has called you to be."

Hebron Church will celebrate 100th year

Hebron Church of Montgomery County will celebrate 100 years as an organized church on June 27 and 28. Sunday, the worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include the dedication of the recently completed sanctuary. For more information, call 289-5030 or 289-1933.

"Radical" abortion bill clears first hurdle

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Freedom of Choice Act took its first step toward passage and another showdown between Congress and the president when a House of Representatives subcommittee approved the abortion-rights bill June 18.

The Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights voted 5-3 for final passage along party lines, with the Democratic members favoring the bill. The Freedom of Choice Act, H.R. 25 in the House and S. 25 in the Senate, is expected to be considered soon by both the House Judiciary Committee and Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

FOCA supporters say the bill will do no more than enact legislatively the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Opponents argue it will go beyond Roe and prohibit restrictions such as parental notice for minors now allowed by the court. Both the American Civil Liberties Union, which supports the bill, and the Justice Department, which opposes it, agree with opponents' assessment of FOCA's effect.

"This legislation is the most radical pro-abortion legislation Congress has ever considered," said James A. Smith, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission director of government relations. "FOCA is a federal mandate on

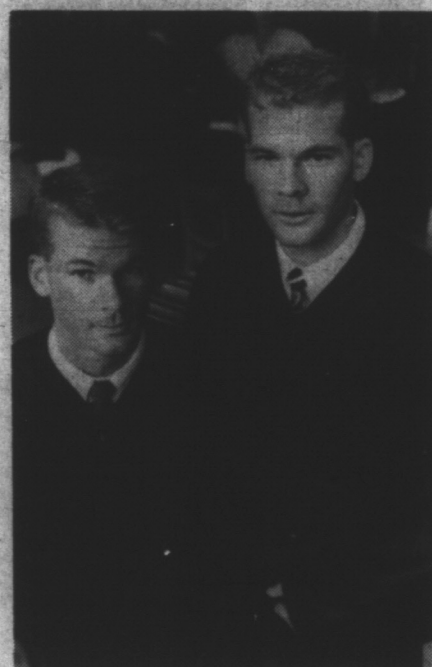
every state to require the availability of abortion on demand from conception to birth."

Six amendments offered by Rep. Henry Hyde, R.-Ill., a pro-life leader, failed in the subcommittee. All would have allowed states to require some restrictions. Included were allowances for parental consent for minors, informed consent for women, spousal notification and a ban on abortions based on the sex of the unborn child. Five of the amendments failed by a voice vote. The ban on sex-selection abortions faltered when it could do no better than a 4-4 vote.

"Our assertion that this bill should be called 'the freedom to kill bill' is validated by the subcommittee's action to turn away every amendment which would limit the bill's scope, even the amendment relating to sex-selection abortions," Smith said.

Pro-choice leaders reportedly hope Congress will approve the legislation this summer and force President Bush to veto it, a move they believe may damage his reelection chances entering the fall campaign. The president has said he will veto FOCA. Democratic candidate Bill Clinton and independent Ross Perot both have indicated they will sign it.

Rep. Don Edwards, D.-Cal., chairman of the subcommittee, is chief sponsor of FOCA in the House.



Unique honors

Traditionally at graduation William Carey College honors the student with the highest academic average in four years of study at the college. It would not be unusual for two persons to share the honor, but it is unique when shared by twins with perfect 4.0 averages. Ricky (left) and Ray Cummings received bachelor of science degrees in the May 16 commencement. Both double-majoring in biology and chemistry as pre-medicine students. They will attend graduate school in the fall. Both hope to enter the field of medical research. The young men are from Hattiesburg and the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cummings. They are active in Hattiesburg's Temple Church.

Names in the news



First Church, West Point, recently honored Jackie C. Hamilton, pastor, and his wife on their first five years of ministry. On behalf of the church, Robble Robinson, chairman of deacons (left), presented a monetary gift, a plaque expressing appreciation, and a mini-history of the church written by Miss Tom Womack and the history committee (Mrs. Ethel Gibson and Mrs. Allie Vance, chairpersons).

Richard A. Miley and his family were recently surprised on their 15th anniversary with pastor appreciation day. The records show that 15 years ago there were 220 members. During these 15 years there have been 226 professions of faith. In 1976 there was a total mission giving of \$1,522. The 1991 records reveal that total mission giving was \$13,311.

Carl A. Hudson, area representative for New Orleans Seminary since 1986, will retire July 31. He will continue serving as director for the Mississippi off-campus seminary center at Mississippi College. A native of Pascagoula, he graduated from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His wife, Dottie, is on the counseling staff at First Church, Jackson.

Don H. Stewart, director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and the six masters extension centers of New Orleans Seminary, is author of the 1993 January Bible Study, "Design for Discipleship — Sermon on the Mount."

Hebron School thanks Faith, Starkville, with playground

By Angela McWhirter

Students, staff, and faculty of Hebron Christian School in Pheba wanted to find a way to thank Starkville's Faith Church for allowing them to relocate at the church after a devastating fire last fall.

Parents and supporters of Hebron Christian School decided the best way to say thanks would be to raise money and purchase new playground equipment for the church. They also constructed the equipment which included slides and swings, and added a fence around the area.

The school sustained heavy damage in a Oct. 5, 1991 fire that was later ruled arson. Insurance has paid for the reconstruction of the facility which is scheduled for

Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport, wrote this quarter's lessons in Advanced Bible Study on "David: Serving God." He recently was the recipient of the Mississippi Coast Magazine readers' choice award for "Best Public Speaker." He has served on the Resolutions Committee of the SBC and is currently serving on the Education Commission of the SBC.

Betty Baggott, free-lance writer, retreat leader, and lecturer, of Birmingham, and Mrs. Jeri Bennett, instructor in Home Economics and Physical Education at Mississippi College, will lead sessions for wives of pastors attending the third annual school for pastors and wives at Mississippi College, on Aug. 6-7. For more information, write or call Office of Continuing Education, Box 4185, Clinton, MS 39058 (601) 925-3831.



Baggott

rededication on Aug. 1.

Faith Church learned of the fire and voted to open its building to the school. Two weeks later, the school was operating at Faith Church.

The 170 students came from West Point, Maben, and Houston to continue their Christian education at Hebron.

"We think it was an example of the Christian community in Starkville coming together to help someone," said Hebron principal Mark Smith. "The people here let us have classes in their building without charging us rent and they gave us access to the building and whatever we needed."

McWhirter is a member of Faith Church, Starkville.

McCondry Church observes 125th anniversary

The 125th anniversary celebration of McCondry Church, McCondry, will be held Sunday, June 28. Special services will begin at 11 a.m. with former pastors speaking, special music, and presentation of the church history.

Lunch in the fellowship hall will follow the morning service.

Jim Gore is pastor, McCondry Church.

Center Terrace celebrates 60 years

Center Terrace Church, Canton, will celebrate its 60th anniversary with homecoming services June 28.

Morning worship will be held at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., with Sunday School at 9:35. Judd Allen, former pastor, will bring the morning message.

Dinner in the fellowship hall will follow the 11 a.m. service. The children's choir will present "That's What America Means to Me," a July 4th musical, at 2 p.m., concluding the day's activities.

Jerry T. Hood is pastor, Reid Vance is interim minister of music.

MC summer term registers July 6

The second summer term registration at Mississippi College is scheduled for July 6, 9-11 a.m. in the A. E. Wood Coliseum.

Classes will begin July 7. Individuals taking night classes only will register from 4:30-6:30 p.m. July 6 in the coliseum, and classes will meet immediately following registration.

Exams will be held Aug. 6, and the summer session will close Aug. 7.

For more information, call the Admissions Office at 925-3240.

1937 — Jackson was named as the regular meeting place for the annual sessions of the convention.

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Thursday, June 25, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Revival dates

Rome Church, Rome: July 5-8; Jay Richardson, First Church, Drew, evangelist; David Brannon, Second Church, Indianola, music; Terry Tribble, pastor.

Anding Church (Yazoo): June 28-July 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; dinner on the grounds; 7 p.m. nightly; Howard Smith, DOM, Warren and Yazoo associations, evangelist, Sun.-Wed.; Jerry Alexander, layman, speaker, Thurs.-Fri.; Joe Hill, pastor.

Washington Church (Adams): July 5-8; 7 p.m. nightly; James Fancher, Jackson, evangelist;

Kaye Scott, Washington Church, Roxie, music; Norris W. Curry, pastor.

Williamsburg Church, Collins (Covington): July 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; Tony Bagley, Collins, evangelist; Bob Thames, Seminary, music; Glen Smith, pastor.

Second Church, Calhoun City: July 26-31; Sunday, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; homecoming, 1:30 p.m.; C. G. Gaston Jr., Baileyville, guest speaker; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Carl Morris, pastor.

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NOTICE*

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Please contact his office immediately!

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Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Post Office Box 530
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Telephone: (601) 968-3800

*LOSS OF MASTER CALENDAR IN ZIMBABWE, AFRICA

Just for the Record

Commission Road Church, Long Beach, will have a special service on June 29 at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Nelson Price from Marietta, Ga. Gerald Simmons will be minister in music. For more information, call the church office, 864-2703.

Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson, and the combined choirs and drama group will present "From Sea to Shining Sea," a musical celebration, July 5 at 1:30 p.m. The program will follow a dinner on the grounds at noon and worship service at 10:30 a.m. David Merritt is pastor.



Oak Grove Church, Shubuta, honored longtime deacon C. A. "Doc" Brock, April 26. A new public address was dedicated that day to Brock's late wife, Ida Lee. Billy Whitaker presented a plaque to Brock acknowledging his many years of service, and a dinner in the fellowship hall followed the morning worship.



Double Springs Church, Oktibbeha County, recently held ground breaking ceremonies for a new facilities, including educational building and fellowship hall. Shown (top photo, left to right) are members of the grounds committee: Bud Reaves, pastor; Ricky Reed, Doug Oswalt, Leon Fulgham, Melvin Butler, Shorty Carden; and members of the building committee (bottom photo), Ola Belle Fonders, Martha Reed, Bud Reaves, pastor; Leon Fulgham, Kenneth Nickles, and Shorty Garty.



Executive Council members for the Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union for the school year 1992-93, left to right, are: (seated) Melanie Groner, Pearl, student outreach director; Lori Clark, Germantown, Tenn., fine arts coordinator; Kristie Harrick, Melbourne, Fla., publicity coordinator; Kim Ethridge, Hattiesburg, intramural director; Wendy McKay, Columbus, social director; Kim Lawson, Florence, community missions coordinator; (standing) Christ Siggins, Tamarac, Fla., discipleship coordinator; June C. Scoggins, associate BSU director; Daniel Hyams, Ruston, La., missions director; Greg Johnston, Madison, worship/study coordinator; Brad Benton, Ocean Springs, international student coordinator; Ken Watkins, BSU director; Susan Lee, Starkville, vice-president; Brock Williams, Hickory, student center coordinator; (not pictured) Wes Bowen, Tupelo, president; and Colbey Penton, Picayune, special outreach events coordinator.



Ebenezer Church, Bassfield, held an Acteens recognition service May 3 with the theme "God's Beautiful Bouquet." Pictured above, left to right are: Tina Mitchell, queen regent in service; Terri Lee, queen regent; Ashley Broome, queen with scepter; and Kristi Hatton, queen. Janet Lee is Acteen director.



Chuck Porelau, pastor of First Church, Louisville (standing, right), led a group of 22 men on a construction-mission trip to Imperial, Mo., the week of May 24. Shown, left to right, are: (back row) Ted Sykes, Tim Smith, Jimmy Covington, Steve Anderson; (front) Joel Cockrell, Dorris Jones, Bobby Land, Ester Taylor, Bill McBrayer, Bob Johns, Ron Phillips, Ken Burton, Buddy Breland, Charlie Wright, Stuart Ballew, Romeo Bridges, James Humphries, Farrell Rigby, Don Cain, Valcus Porter, and Eddie Ray Miley. First, Louisville, has expressed its commitment to missions by giving and going: no less than 40 volunteers will be involved in home and foreign missions in the next year.

A little boy's thank you

By Guy Hughes

The little boy shyly took his place in line with the rest of the children. The warm sun shined brightly on this June morning. Excitement was in the air as "old buddies" slapped each other on the back and chattered about how much fun the week would be. The little boy stood silently to the side for he was new and sometimes new people must bide their time before being included. Time would make a difference.

Music began from within the church. Two lines of potentials marched down the aisle of the church while the pianist played "Onward Christian Soldiers." the little boy liked the tune and he later learned the words.

The little boy stood straight and tall as the children gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag, the Christian flag, and the Bible. He knew only the words, learned in school, to the pledge to the United States flag. He gradually learned the others.

The little boy also learned about the Cross. He was fascinated by the stories of Jesus. He learned things about life not taught in school. He learned why he had problems obeying Mom and Dad and getting along with his brothers and sisters. The little boy added the word "sin" to his vocabulary and began to hate it because it nailed Jesus to the cross.

Faithful teachers showered the little boy with love. Being from out of town, he felt out of place. They lovingly ministered to the boy even though he would be here one week and gone the next. They were convinced of the power of God's Word to change the little boy's life. Their job was to plant the seed.

That week the seed was planted in the little boy's heart. Time passed and others watered, still others weeded. The little boy soon learned to make the Jesus stories he learned in Vacation Bible School the story of his life.

I know — because the little boy was me.

Today, the big boy wishes to thank the faithful Christians of Cold Springs Baptist Church in Collins, Miss., for sharing the story of Jesus with him in the late 1960s, which he now preaches in the 1990s.

Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada. This story originally appeared in "The Lamplighter" of Friendship Church.

Staff changes

Meadowood Church, Amory, has called Clayton Wilbanks as minister of music, effective May 1. A native of Memphis, Tenn., he



Wilbanks

received his education at Memphis State University and Mid-South Bible College. His previous place of service was Parkview Church, Greenville.

Louin Church in Jasper Association has called William D. Burt as pastor, effective June 8. A native of New Orleans, he received his education at Florida Baptist Theological College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Coteau Church in Houma, La.

Dave Morgan, formerly of Pine Level Church, Chatom, Ala., has been called as pastor of Pecan Grove Church, Ellisville, effective July 5. On July 11, the congregation will hold a pounding and will have a cook-out for its new

pastor. Russell Cottingham has been the interim pastor. A fellowship for Mr. and Mrs. Cottingham will be held June 28 at 6 p.m.



Jumper

Robin Jumper, pastor of Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto, for six years, will become the pastor of First Church, Stockton, Ill., on June 28. A native of Etta, he is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

Mark Shelnutt, chaplain of the Homes of Grace for Men in Vancleave, will serve as interim pastor at First Church, Helena, effective June 14. Shelnutt is married to the former Renee Smith of Vancleave.

Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome. — Samuel Johnson

CRUMPLER

From page 3

traditional Baptist missionaries have done since William Carey, Lottie Moon, and Annie Armstrong.

Arnold Peterson, one of 41 SBC missionaries who resigned in May of this year, told the Midwest Fellowship he left SBC mission work because "the fundamental-conservatives took over complete control

of the Southern Baptist Convention and began drastic changes in the direction of the Foreign Mission Board."

Peterson, a missionary to South Korea for 18 years, is now pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Mt. Vernon, Ill. He said the FMB's new approach to missions is "bordering on paternalism."

Trustees of the FMB have repeatedly denied they have changed the principles by which the agency does foreign missions.

Life and Work

Declare the message



By Lola Autry
Revelation 22:10-21

In the first World War, a commander and his troops were surrounded by the enemy. Without help from another regiment they were doomed. The commander asked for a volunteer who would try to penetrate the enemy lines and get a message to the nearest Americans. For a while no one came forward. Finally a very young man did. He was so young the leader asked, "Son, are you sure you want to do this?" "No, Sir. I don't want to do it, but someone must." Comrades watched as the soldier moved across the open space that divided the enemy camps. They saw him as he fell from gun shots. They marvelled as he again moved forward, one arm hanging limp. He fell again under enemy fire. His friends thought he must surely be dead this time, but they watched as he crawled through brush and out of sight.

Two days passed. All hope was gone. Suddenly, a sentry cried out, "Someone's coming — crawling!" A weary, blood-covered, scarcely human-looking young man crawled to the feet of the commander. With great effort he stood and saluted with his good arm. In a whisper he said, "Commander, I have delivered your message." Christ has a message that needs to be delivered. Who of us is willing to give our all that it may be carried to the uttermost parts of the earth?

The significance of Christ's coming (vv. 12-15). When Christ returns there will no longer be a need for his message to be given. The chance for salvation will have ended. He has commissioned us and commanded us who already are members of his body to carry out his orders. These orders include, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Matthew 24:14 further elaborates: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." In our text Jesus says he will come quickly. He gives his blessing to those who have kept his commandments, and gives entry into the city where they will be safe from the wicked of the world.

The source and the recipients of the message (v. 16). As has been true in our other lessons from Revelation, Jesus identifies himself. He is the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. His message is carried by his angel to the churches.

An invitation to life (v. 16). The Holy Spirit and the church (the bride of Christ) issue the invitation to be partner with Jesus through eternity. Anyone who hears the gospel is invited to be saved. Let those who long for knowledge of Jesus come and have their thirsts quenched. Isaiah 55:1 reads: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Salvation cannot be bought. It is the gift of God to all who believe.

The sanctity of the message (vv. 18-19). We are warned in strong terms and promised dire consequences if we attempt to alter God's message. In Revelation 21:5 we find these words spoken by Jesus to John: "Behold I make all things new.... Write: for these words are true and faithful."

Anticipating the victory (vv. 20-21). Jesus promises to come quickly, and John in agreement says, "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

When that day comes and we stand before him, his eyes gazing intently into ours, what will we be able to say? Will we stutter apologetically, "Lord, I just didn't know how to tell about you. I was always too afraid"? Or will we look into his wonderful face and say, "Commander, I have delivered your message"?

Jesus uses humans to declare the gospel, one to another. The eternal lives of people everywhere depend on their hearing and understanding about Jesus and his good news. We are his messengers, sent to penetrate the enemy lines of Satan. We may not want to declare his message. We may be fearful, or persecuted, or doubtful of our ability, but his order stands.

Have you declared his message to a lost person? If not, what will your answer be to him?

Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church.

Bible Book

Paul's appeal for Onesimus



By Charles Nestor
Philemon 1-20

Paul had a problem. He was a person who was always bold in sharing the gospel, and he won a man to Christ while he was in prison. This man had been a slave but he became a helpful servant to Paul. Now Paul wanted to return him to his master. The problem was that the slave was a runaway. Paul wrote to the master and asked him to forgive the slave. That request presented a most difficult situation. The lesson offers assistance for us in dealing with personal relationships.

I. The salutation (1-3). Paul was writing the letter from prison and addressed it to three individuals and a church. He identifies himself as a prisoner for the cause of Christ. Paul expressed high regard for Philemon. He was apparently a dedicated Christian layman that Paul had won to Christ. He had also opened his home for worship and ministry.

II. Paul's gratitude for Philemon (4-7). Paul thanked God for Philemon and told him he prayed for him on a regular basis. He had received good reports about Philemon's life being one who was full of love and faith. Paul offered prayer that his faith could be communicated to others. He was grateful that Philemon's love provided strength to others in their Christian life. It was Paul's sincere hope that his faith would be contagious so others would enjoy the blessings of God.

This provides a challenge for us to pray for each other on a regular basis that our lives would be characterized as full of love and faith. The world and our fellow believers are watching us. Our lives will influence others. May we pray for compassionate hearts which reach out in faith to those who need encouragement.

III. Paul's request to Philemon (8-20). Paul states that he had the authority to command Philemon to do something. There were two reasons this was true. First, Paul was the one who led Philemon to Christ. Second, he was an accepted apostle who was trusted to teach right from wrong. However, Paul did not want to make such a demand. He preferred to ask as a favor. The favor was for Philemon to receive Onesimus back into his household. Paul relates how the slave had been of no use to him before, but now he would be useful because of his changed life. Paul wanted Onesimus to be received as though it were Paul himself. He really wanted Philemon to receive Onesimus as a brother in Christ. Paul was so much interested in this relationship being restored that he agreed to pay any debts Onesimus owed to Philemon. The only favor Paul requested was the joy of knowing Philemon had accepted Onesimus.

This letter is an excellent illustration of the attitude God expects Christians to have toward other people. There are three lessons we should learn from the story:

1. Christ expects us to be forgiving and accept others. The Bible teaches that when we are rightly related to God, we build strong, caring, and forgiving relationships with others. This type of attitude is vital among Christians.

2. Someone pays the price of sin. Onesimus had cost Philemon some money, but Paul offered to pay the debt. It is obvious that Paul or Philemon would have to bear the cost unless Onesimus could earn enough money to repay his debt. We are to remember that Jesus paid a price for our sins that we cannot repay. Sin has always been expensive. It is not expensive in terms of money, but in terms of the human hurt and pain. We must be willing to pay the price for restored relationships with our fellow men.

3. One person can intercede for another. Onesimus needed someone to stand up for him, and Paul volunteered. We are also reminded of how Barnabas stood up for Paul and John Mark. One of the greatest acts of service a Christian can perform is to show belief in another person. Will you show faith in someone today or this week?

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

Uniform

Good news for God's people



By Bobby Williamson
Nahum 1:2-3; 6-9; 12-13; 15

Nahum 1:7 says, "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Our lesson this week focuses on the fact that in any difficulty, believers can trust in God's goodness and strength. In each of our lives we will face difficult situations and circumstances. Many of the difficulties are self-inflicted, while others are the result of a sinful world and the effects of such sin. We know that it rains on the just and the unjust. The bottom line is this: in any time of trials and tribulation God's grace and mercy are sufficient.

I. The superscription (1:1). The name of this prophet signifies a comforter, for it was a charge given to all prophets. And even though this prophet is to foretell the destruction of Nineveh, it is probable that his task was to comfort the ten tribes of Israel who were now probably carried as captives to Assyria.

II. The wrath and mercy of God (1:2-15). Verse 2 tells us that the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserves wrath for his enemies. Nineveh was a sinful city, and because of this Nineveh was under his wrath. We certainly know that our God is a loving and caring God, but we too know there is a line that is drawn, and a time when his displays the attributes of wrath and vengeance.

Verse 3 tells us that he is slow to anger but that by no means will the guilty go unpunished. There is a definite application for each of us today. That which we sow we shall certainly reap.

There is a story told of a young brother and sister who were always quarreling. The brother was very jealous of his younger sister. One day the mother made Mary, the sister, a doll. Mary loved this doll very much. Periodically, the boy John would hide the doll from his sister. The father would have to intercede for Mary each time. One day the doll disappeared again. The father asked, "John, what did you do with Mary's doll this time?" John said, "Father, I did not do it this time." Months went by with no sign of the doll. Spring arrived, and one day John heard his father yell for him from the yard. When he got there his dad said, "John, I know what you did with the doll." John's eyes fell to the ground, and John said, "How do you know?" The father pointed to the ground. There in the perfect shape of a doll was fresh green grass growing in the flower bed. The father said, "John, what you didn't know was that when your mother made the doll, the only thing she had to fill it with was some grass seed that we had left over!" This story should make us all aware that what we sow we shall reap. If we sow sin and wickedness we will reap the wrath of God, evildoers will be punished.

Verses 3-6 tell us that God's judgment against the wicked would be carried out in the power of his might. Verse 7 though gives us a wonderful promise. Those who trust in God have assurance of his goodness and protection. Nahum's assurance of God's available strength should encourage each of us to trust in the Lord regardless of the trouble around us.

In verses 8 and 9 the prophet uses the metaphors "flood" and "darkness." This is a not so subtle reminder that those who oppose God shall be cut off completely. We should learn that to oppose God is futile. In verses 12-13 we are told that the Lord would break the yoke of the oppressor and set the people free. Once again a wonderful promise that release from oppression should cause each of us to continue trusting God despite pressure and difficulty. God's use of Assyria to chastise Israel reminds us that Christians, too, suffer consequences when we sin. In verse 15 we find that those who longed for peace from God would have cause for celebration.

That peace in our day comes only from knowing Christ in a personal way. The Lord is good, and we can trust him. We can trust him to chastise us when we sin, and to give us peace when we turn to him. In any time of difficulty, believers can trust in God's goodness and strength.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

Deliverance from fear...

By Jack Colvin
Psalm 34:4

Living near the ocean as a child, I enjoyed every opportunity to play on the beach or in the shallow water. My parents worked hard and seldom made it to the beach. On one occasion they were walking out in the surf and urged me to join them. They wanted to teach me to swim. I was afraid of the surf and would not trust the two people who loved me more than their own lives.

This unpleasant experience comes to mind when I fail to trust in the Lord. I think how my lack of faith in my parents almost cost me my life. During World War II, my ship was hit and I spent some time in the ocean. I could swim, but not very well. Another man had to rescue me as I tired.

Once our parents have gone to their rewards, we think of those things we would have done differently. My failure to trust my parents — to put my hand in theirs, when all they wanted to do was help me — must have hurt them.

I am reminded how I must hurt my Lord and Savior when I fail to trust him when the waters of difficulty and distress arise. So many times we turn to the world for help instead of going to our knees in prayer.

Lord, teach me to trust and know you loved me enough to leave heaven's glory, be ridiculed, beaten, crucified, and rise again so I can know eternal salvation.

Colvin is a member of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, and serves on the Annuity Board of the SBC.



House leaders introduce bill, allow gays in military

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — House members introduced a bill May 19 that would stop the Pentagon from discharging homosexuals. Reps Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Gerry Studds (D-Mass.), both homosexuals, joined feminist Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.) in introducing a bill to prohibit discrimination in the armed forces based on "sexual orientation."

"It's time for Congress to change the unfair, expensive, and antiquated policy that the courts and the Bush administration are afraid to touch," Schroeder said.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney repeated his assertion that the presence of homosexuals in the military would hurt morale. "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service," he said.

Last year the Pentagon discharged 360 persons identified as homosexuals. The policy has been unsuccessfully challenged in court a number of times during the last 20 years.

President Bush supports the Pentagon policy, White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

Democratic front-runner Bill Clinton appeared at a gay and lesbian fund-raiser May 19, telling the group, "I have a vision, and you're part of it." Clinton said he'd support a national gay rights law, and "local efforts to make condoms available in school."

The American Family Association is calling for a boycott of Levi Strauss and Company, noting that the jeans manufacturer has withdrawn its support of \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year for the Boy Scouts of America because the Boy Scouts refuse to endorse the homosexual lifestyle. "The fact that they would penalize the Boy Scouts — because the group refuses to accept openly practicing homosexuals as scout masters — proves that they no longer want or desire the business of the overwhelming majority of Americans."

Shackleford accepts Mature Living magazine's editorial position

NASHVILLE (BP) — After two weeks of prayer, longtime Southern Baptist journalist Al Shackleford has accepted the position of editor of Mature Living magazine published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Mature Living, a magazine for senior adults with a monthly circulation of 355,000, is published by the board's Family Ministry Department.

Shackleford, dismissed in July 1990 as vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said he has been unemployed for 23 months. He has held several part-time, temporary positions.

He said he believes his experience and age — he turned 60 on

June 14 — will help him "be more sensitive to the needs" of Southern Baptist senior adults.

Shackleford, a 35-year employee with state conventions and SBC agencies, began his career in 1957 editing a magazine for the Radio and Television Commission.

He became technical director for the public relations office at the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1961. From 1965-76, he served as editor of the Indiana Baptist and director of public relations for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. He began editing Tennessee's Baptist and Reflector in 1976, leaving that position in 1987 to become vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press for the Executive Committee.

Mississippians receive degrees from New Orleans Seminary

Five Mississippians received their doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises May 15. They include: James B. Alford, pastor of Forest Hill Church, Jackson; Cary Glynn Kimbrell, whose parents are from Kosciusko and Mathiston; Waylan B. Owens, pastor of Crosby Church, Crosby; Stephen Bryon Smith, Hattiesburg, missionary to Argentina; and Allen Williams, McComb.

Receiving their masters' degrees during the ceremony were Arthur E. Burroughs, Lucedale; Tim H. Weisheim, pastor of Union Hall Church, Brookhaven; T. Scott Vaughn, Louisville; Matthew Lance Williams, Gautier; James Timothy Johnson, Raleigh; Christopher C. Jenkins, Meridian; Kevin A. Hinton, youth minister at Parkview Church, Picayune; Travis Gray, Pelahatchie; Serina Hicks Gray, Gulfport; Jerry W. Freeman, Purvis; Robert Fennell Jr., Petal, minister of music and youth at Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg;

Samuel Levi Cox, New Albany; Bobbie King Cox, Houston; Jimmy Byrd, Lucedale; John Keith Boutwell, Canton; T. Mark

Rowlen, Eupora, minister of youth at Bowmar Church, Vicksburg; Kathy Nichols Sanson, Raleigh; Joel P. Smith, minister to students at First Church, Vancleave; S. Dean Smith, Moss Point; Joseph W. Tatum, Picayune, youth minister at Rolling Hills Church, McNeill, and Dan Wayne Robert-

son, Myrtle, pastor of West Heights Church, Pontotoc.

Mississippians who received their associate degrees from New Orleans Seminary are David E. Walley, Richton, pastor of Hillcrest Church, Lucedale, and Alfred Byron Wilkinson, pastor of Zion Hill Church, Liberty.



Five Mississippians received their doctoral degrees from New Orleans Seminary during May commencement ceremonies. Pictured with the seminary's president, Landrum P. Leavell II, center, they are, from left: James Alford, Cary G. Kimbrell, Waylan B. Owens, Stephen B. Smith, and Allen Williams.

Planting and watering, from a distance

By Indy Whitten

Antaoniyo came in and the two began to talk. Fred gave his personal testimony and explained the plan of salvation. He said to Antaoniyo, "Wouldn't you like to kneel down right here and take Jesus Christ as your Saviour?" The answer was positive and Antaoniyo made life's most important decision.

In another part of Indianapolis, the Hawthorne Baptist Mission was preparing for a special Sunday service. Avery Willis of Discipleship Training and Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, were the speakers. Bill Baker, pastor of First Church, Clinton, was present to speak words of encouragement from his church, which has a partnership-missions relationship with the Hawthorne Baptist Mission.

Seven people in the neighborhood of the Hawthorne Mission had been won to Christ through "Crossover

Indianapolis". Antaoniyo Hasankhami attended a Baptist church for the first time in his life and was introduced to Pastor Willie Rash and members of the Hawthorne Mission.

Seeds were sown and watered, and now the Hawthorne Baptist Mission will set about nurturing and cultivating. From the distance between Mississippi and Indiana, there is a supportive mission of love in this process. In God's plan, planting and watering is always a cooperative effort, and he gives the increase.

Whitten and her husband are volunteer prayer ministry coordinators, MP.

New Orleans alumni hear of anniversary events

INDIANAPOLIS — The 1991-92 academic year set record enrollments at New Orleans Seminary, both in overall enrollment and on-campus enrollment, President Landrum P. Leavell II told more than 300 persons June 10 at the annual luncheon for alumni and friends.

The seminary has established 21 "goals to launch us from this point into the 21st century," Leavell said. While "some people say theological seminaries with their traditional education are training preachers for churches that won't

exist in the 21st century, there will always be a place for traditional churches, and the place of the seminary is to train a pastor who can serve a church of any stripe."

Alumni elected Gene Henderson, pastor, First Church, Brandon, president of the national alumni association; Jim Futral, pastor, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, president-elect; Mrs. Woodrow Busch, remediation teacher for Cherokee County, N.C., schools, secretary; and Keith Chase, pastor of Layton Avenue Church, Milwaukee, Wis., treasurer.

Baptist Record

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